

**BRIGHTLINGSEA**

**Urban District Council.**

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**REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,**


**For the Year 1899.**

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Brightlingsea :

Printed by Thos. W. Barnes, 63, High Street.

1900.



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# REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1899

## OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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<i>Acreage of District</i>	-	-	<b>2873</b>
<i>Population of District last Census</i>	-	-	<b>3882</b>
<i>Ditto estimated to middle of 1899</i>	-	-	<b>4352</b>

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TO THE  
BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*Brightlingsea, January 20th, 1900.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1899.

I estimate the Population of the District to the *Population* middle of 1899 to be 4352.

The number of Births registered in the District *Births.* amount to 110, being 8 less than last year, and 22 less than in 1897. Of these 65 were males and 45 females; that is, 5 more males and 13 less females than last year.

The birth rate of the District is 25·2, against 27·4 *Birth* last year. *Rate.*

The number of Deaths registered in the District was *Deaths.* 74, an increase of 20 over the figures of last year.

The natural increase in the population during the year is 36; that is 28 less than last year, and 21 less than the average yearly increase during the last census decade.

The following table gives the Deaths during the year at various age periods, compared with the same age periods in 1898 :—

	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
1899	11	4	5	2	21	31
1898	11	8	3	4	13	15

From this table it will be seen that the increased death rate is principally in the age period "65 and upwards," which is more than double that of 1898.

Of the 31 deaths over 65 years of age, 26 were over 70 years ; of these 12 were over 80 years, and 1, a female, 91.

*Infant Mortality.* The Infant Mortality of the District again shows a very satisfactory figure, though not quite so good as last year, being exactly 100, as compared with 93·2 last year.

*Death Rate* The death rate for the year is 17·00 per thousand, as against 12·57 last year. The increase in the death rate is, as has been pointed out above, mainly due to the number of deaths among persons over 65 years of age.

There were 2 deaths in Tendring Workhouse of persons belonging to the District, and 2 deaths in the District of persons belonging to other Districts, so that the corrected death rate is the same as the gross death rate.

*Causes of Death.* The causes of the 74 deaths, as shown by the register, were as under :—

Diphtheria	-	-	-	4
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	1
Rheumatic Fever	-	-	-	1
Phthisis	-	-	-	10
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	-	-	-	3
Heart Disease	-	-	-	6
Gastro-Enteritis	-	-	-	2
Cancer	-	-	-	5
Drowning	-	-	-	3
Old Age	-	-	-	14
All other causes	-	-	-	25
				<hr/> 74

*Pauper Deaths.* There were 8 Deaths among the Paupers in the District during the year.



There has been a large increase in the number of cases of Infectious disease that have come under my notice during the year, amounting to 32, of which 25 were reported as Diphtheria, 4 as Enteric Fever, and 3 as Erysipelas. *Infectious Disease.*

A large number of the cases reported as Diphtheria were severe forms of Tonsilitis, and due, in my opinion, to the numbers of privy middens which exist in the town, and which, as the town grows, become far too crowded, and a constantly increasing source of danger. The demolition of these, and a more perfect system of scavenging, are absolutely necessary for the health of the population. The cases occurred in all parts of the town, and there appeared to be no connection between the various cases. The greatest number of cases, however, occurred amongst children attending the National School, and inspection of the sanitary arrangements of the School led to the detection of very faulty sanitation in the offices of this School, which the School Managers have had notice to alter immediately.

During November and December an epidemic of Influenza occurred, and the attendance at the National School in consequence became so low that it was thought advisable to close the School for a fortnight.

As shown above, 4 deaths resulted from Diphtheria, and 1 from Enteric Fever.

The subjoined table shows the number of cases of zymotic disease notified during the year, arranged according to diseases and months of the year in which they were notified :—

	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Totals
January	1	1	1	3
February	4			4
March				
April				
May				
June	3		1	4
July	6			6
August	3			3
September	4	2		6
October	2			2
November	2		1	3
December		1		1
Total	25	4	3	32

*Isolation  
Hospital.*

The negotiations with regard to the site for an Isolation Hospital having fallen through, the Council decided to provide a Tent Hospital for four beds, with suitable offices, &c., and to pay a yearly sum for the use of a suitable piece of land upon which to erect the Hospital when needed.

*Water  
Supply.*

The new Bore Well has been completed, and from the report of the Engineer as to quantity, and the Analyst as to quality, this should prove a very satisfactory supply.

A second bore is now in course of construction, and duplicate machinery is to be erected, so that the Water Supply of the town will soon be everything that could be desired, and over which the Urban Council has secured complete control.

*Sewerage.*

Messrs. Manders and Son, the Contractors for the new Sewerage System and Works have made very satisfactory progress ; the work has been going steadily on all the summer, and is now nearly completed, and I trust that before the commencement of the next summer both the new Water Works and the Sewage Works will be in full working order.

With these two departments reorganized, it only remains to abolish the old privy midden-pit system, and properly make up the roads, to make Brightlingsea one of the most sanitary towns in England.

Appended to this report are the statistical forms A and B, required by the Local Government Board ; also the report of the Inspector of Nuisances of work done in his department during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. SPENCER COOPER,  
Medical Officer of Health.

*Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in  
the Urban District of Brightlingsea, during the year ending  
December 31st, 1899.*

Complaints received	...	...	18
Nuisances detected without complaint			142
Nuisances abated	...	...	95
Notices served	...	...	28
"Certificates" granted	...	...	13
Houses connected with sewers		...	43
Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed, or existing Privies altered			4
Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water	...	...	3

(Signed) H. W. CHAPLIN,  
Sanitary Inspector.





**B. TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS** coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the Year 1899, in the **BRIGHTLINGSEA** Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

NAME OF LOCALITY.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5	New Cases of Sicknes coming to the knowledge of Medical Officer of Health.										Removed to Isolation Hospital.	Tent Hospital adopted ; not yet obtained.		
	Last Census.	Estima- ted to middle of 1899			Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Fever.					Erysipelas				
									Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal				Cholera	
Brightlingsea	3882	4352	110	Under 5 5 upwards			3						4					3

Notification of Infectious Disease compulsory in the District since January, 1897.

